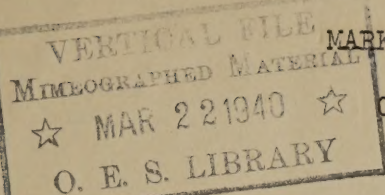


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cards



MARKET FACTS RELATING TO SELECTED FISHERY COMMODITIES

Compiled by the Division of Fishery Industries  
United States Bureau of Fisheries  
October 1939

Canned salmon.

The current season's output of canned salmon in Alaska amounted to 5,147,000 cases of 48 one-pound cans on September 17, as compared with 6,727,000 cases produced by the same date a year ago. The average pack during the past five years was 7,640,000 cases. Alaska usually produces about 90 percent of the domestic pack. The pack in Alaska by species during 1939 was as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Cases</u>
King	31,000
Red	1,942,000
Coho	94,000
Pink	2,513,000
Chum	567,000

The pack in the Puget Sound District of Washington to September 9 amounted to 303,000 cases as compared with 139,000 cases on the same date a year ago. The pack this year consisted mostly of pink salmon.

Unsold stocks of canned salmon in the hands of packers on September 15, 1939, amounted to 2,644,000 cases as compared with 3,898,000 cases on the same date of 1938. Alaska reds accounted for 60 percent of this year's stocks, and pinks 27 percent.

Prices f.o.b. Pacific coast terminals on September 1, 1939, per dozen cans, for important varieties as reported by the "Pacific Fisherman," follow:

Alaska Red:

Talls	<u>1</u>	\$2.15	-	\$2.25
Flats	<u>1</u>			2.35
Halves	<u>12</u>	1.60	-	1.67 $\frac{1}{2}$

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<u>1</u>	Contents	1 lb.
<u>2</u>	Contents	8 oz.



Ocean-caught coho:

Talls	\$1.75
Flats	2.00
Halves	1.25

Pink:

Tall	1.25
Halves	.85

Chum:

Tall	1.15
Halves	.80

California sardines.

The production of California sardines during the 1938-39 season, ending in March, aggregated nearly 2,600,000 cases of 48 one-pound cans, which was about 12 percent more than the pack in the preceding season. The average pack for the past five years was about 2,416,000 cases. Reports are not yet available on the extent of activities during the fishing season in California beginning this fall. According to the "Pacific Fisherman" prices per case on September 1, 1939, f.o.b. Pacific coast terminals for various canned sardine commodities were as follows:

1-lb. oval, 48 cans to case:	
In tomato sauce or mustard	\$3.25 to \$3.35
In natural oil	3.15 to 3.25
1-lb. tall, 48 cans to case	2.40 to 2.50
8-oz., 96 cans to case	3.15 to 3.25
5-oz., 100 cans to case	2.85 to 2.90
Fillets, 8-oz., 48 cans to case	3.00 to 3.10

Tuna and tunalike fishes.

The packing of tuna and tunalike fishes, which include albacore, yellowfin tuna, bluefin tuna, striped tuna, Pacific bonito, and yellowtail, is centered in California. The average annual pack of these fishes in recent years has averaged about 2,600,000 cases of 48 one-half pound cans. The pack through August 1939 amounted to 2,290,000 cases as compared with 1,960,000 cases during the same period of 1938. Of the total year's pack to date, more than 1,400,000 cases consisted of yellowfin tuna.

Prices per case of 48 half-pound cans for canned tuna and tunalike fishes on September 1, 1939, f.o.b. Pacific coast terminals, according to the "Pacific Fisherman" were as follows:



Albacore, standard	\$5.75
Yellowfin, Standard	5.50
Bluefin	5.25
Striped	5.25
Bonito	4.25
Yellowtail	4.00
Flakes	4.25

#### Shrimp.

The pack of canned shrimp from July 1 to September 17, in plants inspected by the Food and Drug Administration, amounted to 432,000 cases of 48 No. 1 cans as compared with 235,000 cases during the same period a year ago. Plants canning about 90 percent of the pack are under this inspection. The annual pack in recent years has been about a million cases.

#### Frozen fish.

Cold storage holdings of frozen fish on September 15 this year amounted to 79,000,000 pounds. While this is about 5 million pounds less than the holdings a year ago, it appears to be adequate for winter demands. Fish in storage include a wide choice of species; however, the most abundant varieties are halibut, whiting, haddock fillets, mackerel, salmon, croakers, and rosefish fillets. More than a third of the total holdings were in New England warehouses, while about one-fourth were in the Pacific States.

#### New England species.

Several species taken in the vessel fisheries of New England are of importance in national sales of fish. Among such species are cod, haddock, pollock, rosefish (frequently sold as ocean perch, sea perch, or red perch), mackerel, and whiting. With the exception of mackerel, all are marketed largely in filleted or other packaged form. The landings of fish, consisting principally of those listed, at the three principal New England ports--Boston and Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Portland, Maine--during the first eight months of 1939, amounted to 261,000,000 pounds as compared with 281,000,000 pounds during the same period of 1938. The only species showing a marked increase during this period was rosefish, the landings of which increased from 46,000,000 pounds in 1938 to 52,000,000 pounds in 1939. The average annual landing for the last five years has been about 375,000,000 pounds.

#### Fresh fish prices.

Prices of fresh fish vary with seasonal and other factors. Wholesale prices on October 2 for some of the varieties of fresh fish and shellfish common to the New York City and Chicago markets follow: (Prices are in cents per pound unless otherwise specified.)



New York City

Butterfish, Med. 3¢; mixed 6¢; large 8¢;  
Cape cod jumbo 10-12¢.  
Cod, steak 8-10¢; market 4½¢.  
Flounders, lemon sole large 6-8¢;  
small 2½-3¢.  
Mackerel, large 10-12¢; tinker 4½-6¢.  
Scup (porgy), mostly 7¢.  
Sea trout, gray, gutted, large mostly 20¢;  
Med. mostly 12¢; small mostly 8¢.  
Crab meat, jumbo lump 60¢;  
Lump flake mixed 35-40¢.  
Oysters shucked, select \$2.40-\$2.50 gal.;  
Standard \$2.15 gal.  
Scallops, sea, \$1.40-\$1.50 gal.

Chicago

Blue pike, 9-10¢.  
Buffalofish, No. 1, 8-9¢; med. 6-7¢.  
Carp, 3-4¢.  
Lake herring, 9-11¢.  
Lake trout, 1½ to 3 lbs. size, 18-22¢;  
4 to 8 lbs. size, 14-16¢; large 12¢.  
Saugers, 9-10¢.  
Whitefish, pound net caught, 28-30¢;  
Gill net caught, 22-26¢;  
Canadian, 20¢.  
Yellow perch, large 11-12¢;  
medium 5-7¢.  
Halibut, 10 to 60 lb. fish, 17-19¢.  
Shrimp, mixed 11-13¢; med. 10-11¢.